



Wyoming State Forestry Division

THE FOREST RESOURCE AGENCY OF WYOMING



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WYOMING CONTINUES TO FACE TOUGH FIRE SEASON

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – As a fire in Platte County grew to 9,000 acres Saturday, state officials said to expect red flag fire warnings over much of the state.

A red flag warning indicates that critical fire conditions – often a combination of high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds – exist or will develop shortly. In Wyoming, the Old Chicago Mine Fire in Platte County drove officials to call for voluntary evacuations of the town of Hartville Friday. Highway 270 remains closed, and the 9,000-acre fire currently threatens 16 homes.

Firefighting efforts are staffed by 148 personnel, including: the Wyoming State Forestry Division's Wrangler and Smokebuster inmate crews, a Bureau of Indian Affairs hand crew, engines from several counties and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, State Forestry's helicopter, three Wyoming National Guard Blackhawks and overhead personnel from State Forestry, county fire organizations, the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM. Mike Hostetler from the Wyoming State Forestry Division is the incident commander.

“With the fire activity across the West and red flag conditions predicted for today and tomorrow, we probably have all the firefighting resources that we are going to get,” said State Forester Bill Crapser. “With the number and size of fires that we have seen this year, our local and state resources are worn thin, and we are very concerned about safety issues as our folks are simply worn out.”

The Old Chicago Fire is the latest of several large fires that have occurred in the state so far this season. The majority of these fires have burned on private and state lands, heavily taxing local and state resources and coffers.

“With several weeks of potential fire season left, I would ask everyone to be especially careful when doing anything outdoors,” said Gov. Dave Freudenthal. “I would also ask everyone to join me in supporting the efforts of our local, state and federal wildland firefighters as they struggle to deal with the situation with the limited resources available to them.”